

full membership of four export control regimes, including Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). United States, France and Russia have publicly stated their support for India's membership of the NSG. India attaches importance to making progress in tandem to achieving the objective of full membership of the NSG and the other three regimes.

Britain slashing aid to India

2965. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Government of Britain has decided to slash its 280 million pound aid to India by half;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has reacted to the said proposal of the Britain; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Government of United Kingdom had announced on November 9, 2012 that no new financial aid grants will be made to India with immediate effect. The programmes already underway will be completed by 2015 as planned. There is no announcement regarding slashing of aid by Government of United Kingdom by half of Pounds 280 million per annum being provided to India. The Government of United Kingdom had consulted Government of India regarding their proposal to discontinue their financial aid programme to India from 2015 onwards. This proposal was agreed to by the Government of India.

PM attending 16th NAM Summit

2966. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has attended 16th NAM Summit in Tehran;
- (b) if so, the details of the Summit;
- (c) whether Prime Minister held meetings with leaders of other countries on the sidelines of the Summit; and

(d) if so, the details of the discussions he had with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the XVI Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Tehran in Iran on 30-31 August, 2012. In his speech at the Summit, PM highlighted the important role for NAM in addressing the central challenges of our time relating to the management of the global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger and deprivation, tackling pandemics, literacy levels, ensuring sustainable development and coping with climate change.

(c) and (d) As part of his bilateral visit to Iran before the NAM Summit, the Prime Minister had meetings with the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on 29 August, 2012. During these meetings, both sides recalled our historical relations and cultural links, and reviewed the state of bilateral relations between our countries. On the sidelines of the NAM Summit, PM had meetings with the Presidents of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the Prime Ministers of Nepal, Bangladesh and Syria, where issues of bilateral and regional importance were discussed.

New consulate in Saudi Arabia

2967. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plans to constitute a new consulate in Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

GMR airport project at Maldives

2968. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GMR Airport project at Maldives has faced any legal and political problem from the decisions of Government in that country;